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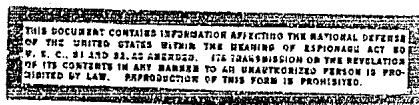
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RECONSTRUCTION EXPENSES IN 1952 BUDGET

Hong Kong, 15 August -- According to an editorial in the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao entitled "Notice on the Basic Improvements in Our Financial and Economic Conditions," great successes have been achieved during the last 2 years in the national economic and cultural reconstruction programs. In 1951, the over-all value of national industrial production was 26.7 percent higher than in 1950. Production for 1952 will present a further increase over 1951. Agricultural production has already recovered to 92.8 percent of the highest pre-war level, and food production has reached the level of the highest previous record. The cotton supply can be considered to be completely sufficient. When foodstuffs and cotton are sufficient, then the oldest problem in Chinese trade will be solved.

The actual administration of the 1951 budget as well as the draft budget for 1952 both clearly demonstrate the firm determination of the people to devote themselves to peaceful reconstruction work. Although national finances are bearing a heavy military burden during 1952, over 50 percent of the disbursements planned in the 1952 budget will be spent on all kinds of national reconstruction work.

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